

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

SUBA 1. A copyright management apparatus used for a copyrighted-work distribution-and-receiving system in which a distribution side generates data from the contents of copyrighted work and distributes the data through a given transmission path, and a receiving side pays a receiving fee for the contents received in a usable form in units of the contents, comprising:

copyright information storage means for storing copyright information related to the copyright of the copyrighted work, including the contents, for all the contents;

receiving means for receiving ~~received-contents-~~specifying information, sent from the receiving side, for specifying the contents to be distributed by the distribution side and received by the receiving side; and

copyright management means for performing management related to the copyright of each copyrighted work by referring to said copyright information storage means according to the ~~received-contents-specifying~~ information received by said receiving means.

2. A copyright management apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said copyright information storage means

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comprises:

a distribution-service-identifying-information database in which contents-identifying information assigned to all the contents and distribution-service-identifying information assigned to every distribution service that distributes contents are correspondingly written; and

a copyright information database in which the contents-identifying information assigned to all the contents and copyright information related to the copyright of copyrighted work, including the contents, are correspondingly written, and wherein

the distribution-service-identifying information is used as the received-contents-specifying information.

3. A copyright management apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said copyright management means searches the distribution-service-identifying-information database according to the distribution-service-identifying information serving as the received-contents-specifying information received by said receiving means to obtain the corresponding contents-identifying information; refers to the copyright information database according to the obtained contents-identifying information to obtain the copyright information of the corresponding copyrighted work; and calculates a copyright fee to be paid for the use of the

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copyrighted work according to the obtained copyright information.

4. A copyright management apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the received-contents-specifying information is sent from the receiving side through a predetermined customer management center.

5. A copyright management apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the customer management center has a function of calculating the contents receiving fee to be claimed against a customer at the receiving side, according to the received-contents-specifying information sent from the receiving side.

6. A copyright management apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said receiving means also receives customer information related to a customer at the receiving side.

7. A copyright management apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the contents are enciphered and distributed.

8. A copyright management apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the given transmission path is a spatial transmission path in digital satellite broadcasting.

SUB 9. A copyright management apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the distributed contents include digitized musical-piece information.

SUBA 10. A copyrighted-work distribution apparatus used for a copyrighted-work distribution-and-receiving system in which a distribution side generates data from the contents of copyrighted work and distributes the data through a given transmission path, and a receiving side pays a receiving fee for the contents received in a usable form in units of the contents, comprising:

contents distribution means for distributing the contents through the transmission path;

copyright information storage means for storing copyright information related to the copyright of the copyrighted work, including the contents, for all the contents;

receiving means for receiving received-contents-specifying information, sent from the receiving side, for specifying the contents to be distributed from said contents distribution means and received by the receiving side; and

copyright management means for performing management related to the copyright of each copyrighted work by referring to said copyright information storage means according to the received-contents-specifying information

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received by said receiving means.

11. A copyrighted-work distribution apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said copyright information storage means comprises:

a distribution-service-identifying-information database in which contents-identifying information assigned to all the contents and distribution-service-identifying information assigned to every distribution service that distributes contents are correspondingly written; and

a copyright information database in which the contents-identifying information assigned to all the contents and copyright information related to the copyright of copyrighted work, including the contents, are correspondingly written, and wherein

the distribution-service-identifying information is used as the received-contents-specifying information.

12. A copyrighted-work distribution apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said copyright management means searches the distribution-service-identifying-information database according to the distribution-service-identifying information serving as the received-contents-specifying information received by said receiving means to obtain the corresponding contents-identifying information;

refers to the copyright information database according to the obtained contents-identifying information to obtain the copyright information of the corresponding copyrighted work; and calculates a copyright fee to be paid for the use of the copyrighted work according to the obtained copyright information.

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SUB 13. A copyrighted-work distribution apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the received-contents-specifying information is sent from the receiving side through a predetermined customer management center.

SUB 14. A copyrighted-work distribution apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the customer management center has a function of calculating the contents receiving fee to be claimed against a customer at the receiving side, according to the received-contents-specifying information sent from the receiving side.

SUB 15. A copyrighted-work distribution apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said receiving means also receives customer information related to a customer at the receiving side.

SUB 16. A copyrighted-work distribution apparatus

according to Claim 10, wherein the contents are enciphered and distributed.

SUB 17. A copyrighted-work distribution apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the given transmission path is a spatial transmission path in digital satellite broadcasting.

18. A copyrighted-work distribution apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the distributed contents include digitized musical-piece information.

SUB 19. A copyrighted-work distribution-and-receiving system in which a distribution side generates data from the contents of copyrighted work and distributes the data through a given transmission path, and a receiving side pays a receiving fee for the contents received in a usable form in units of the contents, comprising:

contents distribution means for distributing the contents through the transmission path;

copyright information storage means for storing copyright information related to the copyright of the copyrighted work including the contents, for all the contents;

a receiving-side apparatus for receiving the contents

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distributed from said contents distribution means and for sending received-contents-specifying information for specifying the received contents;

receiving means for receiving the received-contents-specifying information sent from said receiving-side apparatus; and

copyright management means for performing management related to the copyright of each copyrighted work by referring to said copyright information storage means according to the received-contents-specifying information received by said receiving means.

20. A copyrighted-work distribution-and-receiving system according to Claim 19, wherein said copyright information storage means comprises:

a distribution-service-identifying-information database in which contents-identifying information assigned to all the contents and distribution-service-identifying information assigned to every distribution service that distributes the contents are correspondingly written; and

a copyright information database in which the contents-identifying information assigned to all the contents and copyright information related to the copyright of copyrighted work, including the contents, are correspondingly written, and wherein

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the distribution-service-identifying information is used as the received-contents-specifying information.

21. A copyrighted-work distribution-and-receiving system according to Claim 20, wherein said copyright management means searches the distribution-service-identifying-information database according to the distribution-service-identifying information serving as the received-contents-specifying information received by said receiving means to obtain the corresponding contents-identifying information; refers to the copyright information database according to the obtained contents-identifying information to obtain the copyright information of the corresponding copyrighted work; and calculates a copyright fee to be paid for the use of the copyrighted work according to the obtained copyright information.

22. A copyrighted-work distribution-and-receiving system according to Claim 19, wherein the received-contents-specifying information is sent from the receiving side through a predetermined customer management center.

23. A copyrighted-work distribution-and-receiving system according to Claim 22, wherein the customer management center has a function of calculating the contents

receiving fee to be claimed against a customer at the receiving side, according to the received-contents-specifying information sent from the receiving side.

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24. A copyrighted-work distribution-and-receiving system according to Claim 19, wherein said receiving means can also receive customer information related to a customer at the receiving side.

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25. A copyrighted-work distribution-and-receiving system according to Claim 19, wherein the contents distribution means enciphers and distributes the contents.

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26. A copyrighted-work distribution-and-receiving system according to Claim 19, wherein the given transmission path is a spatial transmission path in digital satellite broadcasting.

SUB
27. A copyrighted-work distribution-and-receiving system according to Claim 19, wherein the distributed contents include digitized musical-piece information.

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